

PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
*AMENDMENT TO GUIDELINE 2.1 OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION'S
"GUIDELINES ON INDIGENT DEFENSE"*

PART II. TRAINING

Guideline 2.1 Training.

- (a) Counsel should be familiar with substantive criminal law, criminal procedural law, the Connecticut Rules of Practice and the prevailing customs or practices of the court in which he/she practices.
- (b) Counsel has a continuing obligation to stay abreast of changes and developments in criminal law and criminal procedure.
- (c) Counsel has a continuing obligation to continue his/her legal training, professional development and education through the weekly review of the Connecticut Law Journal and other legal periodicals. Counsel should also participate in public defender, bar and professional association, regional, or national training events and seminars, and taped or multimedia programs. Public defenders, assistant public defenders, and deputy assistant public defenders employed by the Commission should complete a minimum of twelve hours of such training annually. Special public defenders should complete a minimum of six hours of such training annually.
- (d) Newly appointed attorneys shall be required to participate in the following training activities during their first year as employees of the Division of Public Defender Services:
 - (1) *A New Attorney Training Program* conducted by the Training Department covering the duties and responsibilities of a public defender, ethics of defense practice, basic criminal practice and procedure, and a review of the Connecticut Public Defender Services Commission *Guidelines on Indigent Defense*. Said Training Program shall be conducted over a twelve-month period in accordance with a curriculum developed by the Training Department.
 - (2) *A Trial Advocacy Program* conducted by the Training Department covering the development of basic trial skills for criminal defense.

- (3) A *Mentor Program* through which newly appointed attorneys will be paired with an experienced attorney for the first six months of employment. The mentor will be available to meet periodically with the new attorney and to provide advice and assistance as necessary to support the new attorney during this transition period.
- (4) The Chief Public Defender may vary any of the requirements of this section based on the prior experience of the newly appointed attorney.
- (e) Supervisory attorneys shall be provided with management training on a regular periodic basis.

Adopted June 15, 1999

